

ROCKY RIDGE WINTER YURT GUIDE

The Rocky Ridge yurt is accessed from the Whoop-Um-Up Park N' Ski parking lot. The trails are not groomed to this yurt. This yurt is a favorite of dog lovers and snowshoers. The yurt is located at the end of a rocky finger ridge, providing a spectacular, 180-degree view to the east, south, and west. This is the "dog friendly yurt, where dogs are allowed in the winter. The rolling terrain around the yurt provides a playground for snowshoers. Snow is usually available December 1 to April 7.

Reservations:

Reservations for stays within IDPR Idaho City Backcountry Yurts can be online at www.parksand recreation.idaho.gov or toll free 1-866-634-3246. Reservations are accepted 9-months in advance of your intended stay and no later than 48-hours prior to your intended arrival. A non-refundable fee of \$6 is assessed at the time your reservation is made. All fees must be paid in advance of your stay.

Yurts are reserved from 2 p.m. the day of your reservation until 1 p.m. the following afternoon. The maximum length of stay in the same yurt is 5 days.

Difficulty:

Beginner to intermediate. The difficulty of the ungroomed trails increases in poor snow conditions and weather. Snowshoeing is the recommended way to access this yurt. If you do ski in, climbing skins are recommended for those with heavy packs. Individuals should thoroughly prepare for the yurt trip and travel with someone who has been to the yurt and can readily find it.

Where to Park:

The Whoop-Um-Up Park N' Ski parking lot is 18 miles north of Idaho City on Highway 21. An Idaho Park N' Ski permit is required to park here Nov 15th to Apr 30th. Please park your vehicles close together, parallel to the north side of the lot and at the edge of the toilet access. You should also bring a shovel because you might have to dig your car out in case of heavy snow. Do not park on Highway 21. **Remember this is a multi-use lot with snowmobilers.**

How to Get to the Yurt:

The trails are marked with blue and yellow diamond shapes, called blazes, attached to trees. The recommended approach to the yurt is to take the Pilgrim Loop, counterclockwise, to the Lower Lamar trail. At the intersection where the Lower Lamar trail starts its loop, stay left and follow the trail to where you see a large yellow blaze (2'). From this large yellow blaze, follow the smaller yellow blazes to the yurt. The yurt sits at the end of a finger ridge.

Elevation Gain and Distance:

About 100 feet over 1.75 miles (one-way), there is one short, moderately steep section.

Water:

The nearest water is about 1/2 mile away in the Crooked River and is not easily accessible in the winter. Your best bet is to use the large pot provided to melt snow on the wood stove. We recommend boiling the water for 10 minutes before using.

Wood Pile:

Wood for the stove is located in the separate wood shed. You may have to dig your way to the wood shed.

Dogs:

Dogs are allowed at this yurt year-round. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs, this is especially important during the winter months. Dogs are not allowed on any yurt furniture. Keep all dogs on a leash within 200 feet of the yurt and take them to the Pit Privi area to urinate and defecate. Do not let your dogs roam around on the woodshed side of the approach to the yurt. This is the area used for getting snow to melt to make water.

Special Equipment Needed:

Several members of the party should carry portable snow shovels.

Maps Needed:

Idaho City Area Yurt and Trail System, USFS Forest Road, and USGS 7.5 minute topographic, "Lowman and Big Owl Creek."

Global Positioning System Locations**UTM(in NAD 83 Projection) :**

Whoop-Um-Up Parking Lot: 11T 06010027 4868623

Rocky Ridge Yurt: 11T 0611080 4867558

Lat/Long (in NAD 83 Projection)

Whoop-Um-Up Parking Lot: 43.962/-115.628

Rocky Ridge Yurt: 43.952/-115.615

Elevation:

Whoop-Um-Up Parking Lot: 5,353 feet

Rocky Ridge Yurt: 5,364 feet

WARNING:

Winter travel and the use of the yurt can be dangerous. Do not undertake yurt trips without careful preparation and a serious discussion of the dangers with ALL members of your group.

PLEASE, DO NOT FEED ANY WILD ANIMALS. IT CAN LEAD TO THE ANIMALS CHEWING OR TEARING THE YURT SKIN.

